

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 657

By Davis (Cocke)

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Oll C. "Hoppy" Hopkins for his outstanding bravery, remarkable courage, and unswerving commitment to the service of the United States and the American people upon the 60th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

WHEREAS, it is an honor for this General Assembly to pause in deliberations and pay tribute to those individuals who were willing to sacrifice their lives and concerns in order to maintain and preserve the freedom that we, as Americans, hold dear; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is especially proud of its sons and daughters that served this nation with honor, bravery, and an incomparable love for their fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many patriots who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in honoring those who served bravely in the Second World War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oll C. "Hoppy" Hopkins, of Cocke County, is one such valiant and remarkable individual; and

WHEREAS, Oll C. Hopkins joined the United States Army Air Force on December 5, 1939, at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; he served six months at Maxwell Field in Montgomery,

Alabama; he then transferred to Hickam Field, Hawaii, where he was attached to the 23rd Bomber Squadron at the Marine Transportation Dock; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins excelled in his combat training, developing a specialty as an A.P. Maintenance Technician and a qualified marksman; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan surprisingly and viciously attacked United States forces and military installations at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins was on the boat dock at Hickam Field when the attack on Pearl Harbor began; and

WHEREAS, as the attack commenced, Mr. Hopkins and two other soldiers prayed and then obtained and assembled two M-2 Browning .50 caliber machine guns and returned fire on the low flying Japanese aircraft; and

WHEREAS, despite being strafed by numerous Japanese aircraft, Mr. Hopkins and the two soldiers continued to counter the Japanese efforts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins and several soldiers were ordered by their Captain to board a patrol cabin cruiser to search for enemy ships trying to enter the channel; and

WHEREAS, during their search aboard the patrol cabin cruiser, Mr. Hopkins and his fellow soldiers were attacked several times by Japanese aircraft; and

WHEREAS, Oll C. "Hoppy" Hopkins was on the shoreline dock and in the channel as the Japanese Aircraft destroyed much of the United States Fleet including the tragic sinking of the *USS Arizona*, which killed 1,177 United States sailors; and

WHEREAS, Oll C. "Hoppy" Hopkins survived the Japanese attack which lasted over two hours and left 21 United States ships severely damaged, 323 aircraft damaged or destroyed, and 2,390 people dead and 1,178 wounded; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins served with great honor and courage at Pearl Harbor and throughout the duration of the Second World War; he bravely served in the Northern Solomon Islands, New Guinea, and the Central Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Oll C. "Hoppy" Hopkins attained the rank of Master Sergeant; he was also awarded numerous medals for his meritorious service including the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars; American Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star; the Good Conduct Medal; and was recommended for the Silver Star; and

WHEREAS, Oll C. Hopkins received an honorable discharge from the United States Army on September 12, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Oll C. "Hoppy" Hopkins served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the United States Army and in society today; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes enormous pride in honoring great men, like Oll C. Hopkins, who in the face of imminent danger courageously risk their lives to defend the noble precepts of freedom and democracy and protect the lives of the American people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Mr. Oll C. "Hoppy" Hopkins from Cocke County for his outstanding bravery, remarkable courage, and unswerving commitment to the service of the United States and the American people upon the 60th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. We, on behalf of the people of the State of Tennessee, would like to express our deepest thanks and gratitude to Mr. Hopkins, for his extraordinary service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.